

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated 5/13/04 the Examiner rejected pending claims 3-10 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and claims 1-4 under 35 USC 102. The Office Action and the reference cited therein have been carefully considered and the above amendment is presented in an effort to comply with Patent Office requirements and advance prosecution of the application.

The examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US Patent 4,843,983 to Olson. Independent claim 1, from which all the other claims depend, has been amended to specify that the left 32 and right 34 wing frame sections are "offset" from the center frame section 30 as clearly shown in Figures 2 and 3 as originally filed. Furthermore, as claim 1 originally specified, the center, left and right frame sections have a toolbar 36 (37, 38). The hollow toolbars 38 form a pneumatic manifold which are pneumatically coupled to one another by a resilient bell 74 when in the planting configuration. Planting units 14 are mounted to the toolbars 36 (37, 38).

In contrast to claim 1 of the present invention, the frame sections 14, 16 and 18 of Olson are not offset and the toolbars do not form a pneumatic manifold. Rather the Olson pneumatic manifold is formed by rigid pneumatic circular conduits 24, 26, 28 and 30 that are mounted to the square toolbars. Planting units are not mounted to the Olson pneumatic conduits 24, 26, 28 and 30. As such Olson does not anticipate claims 1-4.

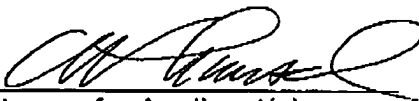
Thus, all the elements in Claim 1 are not taught or suggested in the cited reference. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in Olson that the wing frame sections are offset from the main frame section or that planting units are mounted to the toolbars which also form pneumatic conduits.

Claims 3 and 6 have also been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112.

It is therefore believed that the rejection of all the claims should be withdrawn and that this application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present communication may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,


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